



CHURCH @ HOME SERVICE ORDER

**Sunday, 26 April 2026
Fourth Sunday of Easter**



A PRAYER FOR GATHERING IN GOD'S PRESENCE

**Gracious God, you call us from many places
and many weeks into one holy moment.
Quiet our restless hearts and gather our scattered thoughts.
As you have promised, be present among us now—
to speak your living Word, to renew our faith,
and to shape us again by your mercy.
Amen.**

OPENING SENTENCES

Jesus says, "I am the gate for the sheep."
We come to the One who opens the way to life.
Jesus says, "Whoever enters through me will be saved."
We come seeking his grace, mercy and salvation.
Jesus says, "I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full."
We come to receive his abundant life.

INVOCATION

In the name of the Father and of the Son † and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

GREETING ONE ANOTHER

THE LORD'S MY SHEPHERD

**The Lord's my Shepherd I'll not want
He makes me down to lie
In pastures green He leadeth me
The quiet waters by**

**My soul He doth restore again
And me to walk doth make
Within the paths of righteousness
E'en for His own name's sake**

**Yea though I walk in death's dark vale
Yet will I fear no ill
For Thou art with me and Thy rod
And staff me comfort still**

**My table Thou hast furnished
In presence of my foes
My head Thou dost with oil anoint
And my cup overflows**

**Goodness and mercy all my life
Shall surely follow me
And in God's house for evermore
My dwelling place shall be**

**Francis Rous, Jessie Seymour Irvine, William Whittingham
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LORD HAVE MERCY

(spoken)

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

GLORY BE TO GOD IN HEAVEN

**Glory be to God in heaven,
peace to those who love you well;
on the earth let all your people
speak your grace, your wonders tell:
Lord, we praise you for your glory,
mighty Father, heaven's king;
hear our joyful adoration
and accept the thanks we bring.**

**Only Son of God the Father,
Lamb who takes our sin away,
now with God in triumph seated -
for your mercy, Lord, we pray:
Jesus Christ, most high and holy,
Savior, you are God alone
in the glory of the Father
with the Spirit: Three-in-One!**

Michael Perry

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The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

**Our Gracious Shepherd,
you have given us Jesus, the gate of life.
Open our ears to his voice,
and lead us in his safe and gentle way.
Guard us from all that would harm,
and draw us into the fullness of your grace,
that we may live in quiet trust and joyful hope;
through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

PSALM 23

The Lord is my shepherd, I lack nothing.
He makes me lie down in green pastures,
he leads me beside quiet waters,
he refreshes my soul.
He guides me along the right paths
for his name's sake.
Even though I walk
through the darkest valley,
I will fear no evil,
for you are with me;
your rod and your staff,
they comfort me.
You prepare a table before me
in the presence of my enemies.
You anoint my head with oil;
my cup overflows.
Surely your goodness and love will follow me
all the days of my life,
and I will dwell in the house of the Lord
for ever.

Glory to the Father and the Son
and the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning, is now,
and will be forever.
Amen.

BIBLE READING

Acts 2:42-47: Life and worship in the apostolic church

They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. All the believers were together and had everything in common. They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favour of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.

After the reading
This is the Word of the LORD.
Thanks be to God.

1 Peter 2:19-25: The shepherd and bishop of our souls

For it is commendable if someone bears up under the pain of unjust suffering because they are conscious of God. But how is it to your credit if you receive a beating for doing wrong and endure it? But if you suffer for doing good and you endure it, this is commendable before God. To this you were called, because Christ suffered for you, leaving you an example, that you should follow in his steps. 'He committed no sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth.' When they hurled their insults at him, he did not retaliate; when he suffered, he made no threats. Instead, he entrusted himself to him who judges justly. 'He himself bore our sins' in his body on the cross, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; 'by his wounds you have been healed.' For 'you were like sheep going astray,' but now you have returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.

After the reading
This is the Word of the LORD.
Thanks be to God.

John 10:1-10: Jesus, the gate for the sheep

Before the reading
Glory be to You, O LORD.

'Very truly I tell you Pharisees, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold by the gate, but climbs in by some other way, is a thief and a robber. The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep listen to his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. When he has brought out all his own, he goes on ahead of them, and his sheep follow him because they know his voice. But they will never follow a stranger; in fact, they will run away from him because they do not recognise a stranger's voice.' Jesus used this figure of speech, but the Pharisees did not understand what he was telling them. Therefore Jesus said again, 'Very truly I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. All who have come before me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep have not listened to them. I am the gate; whoever enters through me will be saved. They will come in and go out, and find pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.

After the reading
This is the gospel of the LORD.
Praise be to You, O Christ.

JESUS, STRONG AND KIND

**Jesus said that if I thirst,
I should come to Him.
No one else can satisfy,
I should come to Him.**

**Jesus said if I am weak,
I should come to Him.
No one else can be my strength,
I should come to Him.**

**For the Lord is good and faithful.
He will keep us day and night.
We can always run to Jesus.
Jesus, strong and kind.**

**Jesus said that if I fear,
I should come to Him.
No one else can be my shield.
I should come to Him**

**For the Lord is good and faithful.
He will keep us day and night.
We can always run to Jesus.
Jesus, strong and kind.**

**Jesus said if I am lost,
He will come to me.
And He showed me on that cross,
He will come to me.**

**For the Lord is good and faithful.
He will keep us day and night.
We can always run to Jesus.
Jesus, strong and kind.**

**For the Lord is good and faithful.
He will keep us day and night.
We can always run to Jesus.
Jesus, strong and kind.
Jesus, strong and kind.**

Rich Thompson, Colin Buchanan, Michael Ray Farren, Jonny Robinson
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MESSAGE

At this point you may wish to watch the Sermon.
For Church YouTube Channel ([click here](#))
For LCA Worship Resources ([click here](#))

CONFESSION OF SINS

*Let us draw near to God our Father with a true heart to confess our sins,
and ask Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to forgive us.*

**Almighty God, merciful Father, I, a poor helpless sinner, confess to You all my sins,
and repent of all the evil I have done. I have deeply displeased You and deserve Your
punishment in time and in eternity. But I am sorry for my sins, and I ask You, for the
sake of the holy innocent sufferings and death of Your dear Son Jesus Christ, to be
gracious and merciful to me. Amen.**

*Almighty God, our heavenly Father, has had mercy on us, and has given His only Son to
die for us, and for His sake forgives us all our sins. To those who believe in His name He
has given the right to become children of God, and has given them His Holy Spirit.
Whoever believes and is baptised will be saved. Grant this, Lord, to us all. Amen.*

THE GOODNESS OF JESUS

**Come you weary heart now to Jesus
Come you anxious soul now and see
There is perfect love and comfort for your tears
Rest here in His wondrous peace**

**Oh the goodness the goodness of Jesus
Satisfied he is all that I need
May it be come what may that I rest all my days
In the goodness of Jesus**

Come find what this world cannot offer
Come and find your joy here complete
Taste the living water never thirst again
Rest here in His wondrous peace

Oh the goodness the goodness of Jesus
Satisfied he is all that I need
May it be come what may that I rest all my days
In the goodness of Jesus

Come and find your hope now in Jesus
He is all he said he would be
Grace is overflowing from the Saviour's heart
Rest here in His wondrous peace

Oh the goodness the goodness of Jesus
Satisfied he is all that I need
May it be come what may that I rest all my days
In the goodness of Jesus

Fiona Aghajanian | Harrison Druery | Jaywan Maxwell | Jonny Robinson | Michael Farren | Rich Thompson,
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OFFERING PRAYER

Loving God,
You call us by name and lead us into life in all its fullness. Everything we have comes from your hand. Receive these offerings as signs of our trust in you. Use them and our lives for your kingdom, that others may hear your voice and find life in you; through Jesus Christ, our Good Shepherd, amen.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

As sheep trust their shepherd for guidance and protection, let us turn to our God in prayer, certain that he hears our voice for the sake of Jesus Christ his Son.

Heavenly Father: thank you for calling us by the voice of Jesus, our Good Shepherd, in the scriptures. Help us listen to them properly and hear our Lord Jesus Christ in them. Lord, in your mercy: **Hear our prayer.**

Guide all pastors as they shepherd the flock of Christ. Remove all false ways and false teaching from them. Give them the Holy Spirit that they may have passion for their service and encouragement when times are difficult.

Lord, in your mercy: **Hear our prayer.**

We pray for all who rule and govern, that they may be like shepherds to their people, treating all with fairness and dignity.

Lord, in your mercy: **Hear our prayer.**

Help parents and teachers guide their children in your paths. And bring back those who have strayed from the faith.

Lord, in your mercy: **Hear our prayer.**

Have mercy on the dying and those who mourn, including (*insert names here*). Walk with them through the valley of the shadow of death. Watch over those undergoing or recovering from surgery at this time and help those we know in special need and whom we now name in our hearts...

Lord, in your mercy: **Hear our prayer.**

We pray for God's guidance and blessings for all members and friends of our congregation. Today we pray for David & Janet; Patricia; Owen & Amanda; Fred & Lois; Phillip & Rebecca. Please keep them strong in faith, active in love, and hopeful in all things.

Lord in your mercy: **Hear our prayer.**

Bless the families, students, and staff at all our Grace Places. Today we pray specially for GLPS Students Archer in Year 1; Freyja, Joshua & Rania in Year 2; Hudson & Michaela in Year 3; Finley, Sophie & Eli in Year 4; Aubrey, Caellum, Willow, Samuel & Carter in Year 5 and staff members Trudy M & Justin R. Please provide for all their needs and guide them into your truth and love.

Lord in your mercy: **Hear our prayer.**

Shepherd God, you gather your sheep from all corners of the world, and do not allow even one of your flock to be lost. May we and all people hear your voice and be gathered into the one flock of our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be Your name, Your kingdom come,
Your will be done, on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are Yours
now and forever. Amen.**

BLESSING TO SHARE

May Jesus your Good Shepherd call you and guide you.
May Jesus your Good Shepherd call you and guide you.
May you hear his voice and trust him each day.
May you hear his voice and trust him each day.
May he be your gate, keeping you safe in his love and grace.
May he be your gate, keeping you safe in his love and grace. Amen.

THE KING OF LOVE MY SHEPHERD IS

**The King of love my shepherd is;
whose goodness fails me never.
I nothing lack if I am His,
and He is mine for ever.**

**Where streams of living water flow
my soul's Redeemer leads me,
and where the verdant pastures grow,
with food celestial feeds me.**

**Perverse and foolish oft I strayed,
yet still, in love, He sought me,
and on His shoulder gently laid
and home rejoicing brought me.**

**In death's dark vale I fear no ill
with You, dear Lord, beside me;
Your rod and staff my comfort still,
Your cross before to guide me.**

**You spread a banquet in my sight,
Your grace, like oil, bestowing;
my spirit soars with pure delight
my cup is overflowing.**

**And so through all the length of days
Your goodness fails me never;
Good Shepherd, may I sing Your praise
within Your house forever.**

**Henry Williams Baker, John Bacchus Dykes
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